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Docket No.: A-2829

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Lutz Richter et al.
Applic. No. : 09/852,348 Confirmation No. 4692
Filed : May 9, 2001

Title : Gathering Stapler with Separate Drives and
Method of Operating the Gathering Stapler

Examiner : Gloria R. Weeks
Group Art Unit : 3721
Docket No. : A-2829
Customer No. : 24131

D E C L A R A T I O N under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

The undersigned Lutz Richter, Andreas Steinert, and Siegmur Tischer hereby declare:

The invention of the above-identified application was
"conceived" and "reduced to practice" in one of the United
States, a NAFTA country other than the United States, or a WTO
member country at least as early as April 9, 2000.

Enclosed, as corroborating evidence is the Invention Disclosure
(*Erfindungsmeldung*) which is a pre-printed form filled-out and
signed by the undersigned. The Invention Disclosure was
executed by the undersigned on March 6, 2000. The Invention
Disclosure was given to the Heidelberg Patent Department on
March 9, 2000.

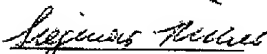
The undersigned declares that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.



Lutz Richter

Date: 15. November, 2004.

Andreas Steinert

Date: 15. November, 2004.

Siegmund Tischler

Date: 15. November, 2004.